

## THE CLARION.

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## The Congressional District.

The bill redistricting the State was passed in great hurry and confusion in the last hours of the session of the Legislature, and is incongruous and defective in many particulars. The districts are not equal in population and are far from being geographically compact. It is entirely competent for the next Legislature when it meets to make such changes as are necessary to remedy these defects.

MR. BECK, of Kentucky, with Mr. Vance, of North Carolina as his coadjutor, leads the opposition against the monopolists in the Senate; and Mr. Carlisle also of Kentucky, with Messrs. Tucker of Virginia, and Mills of Texas, as his principal coadjutors leads the opposition to them in the House.

## The Postal Service.

As to the matter of reform in the postal service, what the people in the country most need is not so much a reduction of postage as more expeditions and direct mail routes. Give them more frequent mails and less circuitous lines, and they will readily pay the present rates of postage.

BOTH parties in Congress have caucused on the tariff question. The Republicans have agreed to use all their efforts to pass a bill, and the Democrats have determined, while claiming the right of free discussion and close scrutiny, not to filibuster to prevent action. The Republicans having a majority in both houses will be responsible for whatever is done.

THE Agricultural Appropriation bill, passed by Congress appropriated \$405,640. It provides for continuing the experiments in the manufacture of sugar from sorghum and other vegetable plants, for the purchase, propagation, and distribution of seeds, plants, shrubs, etc., and for the maintenance of the Agricultural Bureau of the Interior Department.

THE Enterprise Courier says that Mr. Wilbur F. Smith, a most competent gentleman, has been appointed postmaster at DeSoto, and we know that Col. J. A. Blair who has been appointed postmaster at Tupelo, is worthy and competent. The Administration is inconsistent in its civil service reform performances. It puts in good men like Messrs. Smith and Blair, and puts out good men like Robert L. Bennett. What subtle influences have effected this inconsistent and incomprehensible conduct? Can anybody solve the mystery?

THE Crystal Springs Meteor has a deserved and very touching tribute to the late Martin Faler, who has resided in Hazlehurst from the foundation of the place, twenty-six years ago, to his death, on the 24th January, 1883. He was an Alsatian by birth, but had lived in Mississippi since his early manhood, following the pursuit of a merchant, and was universally esteemed for his sterling virtues.

IN the tariff debate in the Senate Messrs. Beck, Vance and other Democrats charged that the Tariff Commission schedules were the product of a conspiracy between the Tariff Commission and the manufacturers. They read letters written by Messrs. Kenner and Porter, members of the Tariff Commission, to the representatives of special interests during the sessions of the commission containing points and suggestions of value to the interests represented. Mr. Morgan of Alabama, remarked that the Finance Committee bill was a fraud and a cheat and the result of conspiracy.

PENDING the tariff discussion in the House of Representatives, Mr. Mills of Texas addressed himself especially to consideration of the proposed duty on cotton ties, declaring that no cotton producer could vote for a bill, which in response to a demand for reduction of that duty, increased it 102 per cent.

## Civil Service Reform—Republican Tactics.

While the governmental policy of the Republican party is odious and has brought it into disfavor with the people, the ability and courage of its leaders cannot be gainsayed. On several memorable occasions, they have literally turned defeat into victory. Notably, in 1876-77, when after their defeat in the Presidential election, their audacity and courage arose with the emergency and gave them eight years longer lease of power in defiance of the decision of the people that they should be retired. Their strategic resources have been wonderfully displayed in their management of the civil service question. Their reckless and wanton abuse of public trust; their appointment of thousands of persons for partisan reasons without regard to qualification; their speculation and plundering, caused the reform movement which carried the elections last fall. Quick to discover the popular feeling, without a moment's hesitation, as soon as Congress assembled they sprang to the front of the procession, with flaming colors inscribed CIVIL SERVICE REFORM, and proclaiming themselves better than the genuine reformers, they took charge of the Pendleton bill (which, by the way, was the handiwork of Dorman B. Eaton, a Republican,) and assuming that it would be a panacea for all the ills a suffering people needed relief from, took care to vote down all amendments which were intended to admit of a change of the officeholders touched by the bill so as to retain their partisans in office under a Democratic administration, even if the worse should come to the worst for their party in the election of 1884. The bill provides for competitive examinations for the outs, not for the ins. It authorizes the incoming board to be appointed by a Republican President, thus holding in their own hands the machinery by which new appointments are made, and vesting them in a body which is far removed from the people.

The Republican managers have thus secured the passage of a measure which will enable them to hold all the offices to which it relates, during a Republican administration, and give them more than an even chance for holding the offices if a Democratic administration should follow the Presidential election.

There is this consolation: The people have demanded a civil service reform measure that will reform. They are not to be hoodwinked. They have elected a Democratic majority to the popular branch of Congress pledged to execute their will. The law is amenable. If the other branch of Congress and the Executive stand in the way, then let them look out for the simoon.

Civil Service Reform! In this sign the Democratic hosts will conquer in 1884.

## The Civil Service Reform Bill—Members of Congress.

The following sections of the civil service reform bill, which has recently become a law, are designed to prevent the Senators and Representatives in the appointment of persons employed in the departments at Washington; and from soliciting and receiving money from government employees for political purposes. Under the 10th section the appointing power is authorized to receive recommendations from members as to the character and residence of applicants, and section 11 does not prohibit persons other than members and officers of the government from soliciting and receiving pecuniary contributions for electioneering purposes. Really it would seem that it will not be difficult for persons who are not scrupulous to evade these provisions:

SECTION 10. That no recommendation of any person who shall apply for office or place under the provisions of this act which may be given by any Senator or member of the House of Representatives, except as to character or residence of the applicant, shall be received or considered by any person concerned in making any examination or appointment under this act.

SEC. 11. That no Senator, or Representative, or Territorial Delegate of the Congress, or Senator, Representative, or Delegate elect, or any officer or employee of either of said houses, and no executive, judicial, military, or naval officer of the United States, and no clerk or employee of any department, branch, or bureau of the executive, judicial, or military or naval service of the United States, shall, directly or indirectly, solicit or receive, or be in any manner concerned in soliciting or receiving, any assessment, subscription, or contribution for any political purpose whatever, from any officer, clerk, or employee of the United States, or any department, branch, or bureau thereof, or from any person receiving any salary or compensation from moneys derived from the Treasury of the United States.

THE thirteenth annual report of the Connecticut Railroad Commissioners was presented to the Legislature on Wednesday last. Nine hundred and sixty miles of railroad is operating in that State. Over 100 miles of steel rails were laid last year.

PRESIDENT WILSON of the New Orleans and Memphis Road has informed the Mayor of Natchez that in consequence of the increased cost, the road cannot be built by way of that city.

## Important Decision of the Supreme Court of the United States in a Klu Klux Case.

A decision has been rendered by the Supreme Court of the United States in a case from Tennessee, the U. S. versus R. G. Harris, to the effect that section 5519 (Revised Statutes) is unconstitutional. The section is as follows:

If two or more persons in any State or Territory conspire or go in disguise on the highway, or on the premises of another, for the purpose of depriving, either directly or indirectly, any person or any class of persons, of equal protection of the laws, or of equal privilege under the laws, or for the purpose of preventing or hindering the constituted authorities of any State or Territory from giving or securing to all persons within such State or Territory equal protection of the laws, each of such persons shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$500 nor more than \$5,000, or by imprisonment with or without labor for not less than six months nor more than six years, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

The court holds, in an elaborate opinion by Justice Woods, that this section is not supported by the authority of the Federal constitution, and that its enactment was beyond the power of Congress.

The facts out of which this litigation arises, so far as they are disclosed by the record and pleadings, are briefly as follows:

Some time in the year 1877, four citizens of Tennessee, supposed to be colored men, although not so described in the record, were arrested by one Tucker, a deputy sheriff, on warrants issued by a justice of the peace, and held to answer certain criminal charges, the nature of which is not set forth. While in custody of the sheriff's deputy, these four prisoners were attacked by an armed body of men, of whom defendant Harris was one, and so severely beaten, wounded and maltreated, that P. N. Wells, one of their number, died from his injuries. An indictment was found by the grand jury against Harris and his associates of the attacking party under section 5519 of the Revised Statutes, charging them with conspiracy to deprive the four prisoners above-mentioned of their right to due and equal protection of the laws of Tennessee and of their right to be protected from violence while under arrest. Defendants demurred to the indictment on the grounds:

1. That offenses created by section 5519 of the Revised Statutes are not constitutionally within the jurisdiction of the courts of the United States, but are cognizable by State tribunals only; and

2. That said section 5519, in so far as it creates offenses and imposes penalties, is in violation of the Federal Constitution, and an infringement of the right of the several States and of the people thereof.

Upon the trial of the case, the judges of the Circuit Court found themselves unable to agree as to the constitutionality of the section of the Revised Statutes above referred to, and certified the question to the Supreme Court for a decision, which was that the law is unconstitutional. When the rights of a citizen are violated by another citizen, his remedy must be found in the State Courts.

## An Elective Judiciary.

New York has an elective judiciary. The Brooklyn Eagle favors the system, and says:

The real question at issue is: In a political sense, does it pay a Judge on the Bench to do right? We think it does, and we are also of the opinion that there are safeguards for the right in the elective system, which cannot be looked for under any other method of selecting Judges or any other class of public agents. So far as our observation extends, when mischief is sought, to be done through judicial action, a Judge is rarely found who will be a party to it, if he is about to be a candidate for re-election. Political and sinister influences are most potent through Judges who are most secure in their places—who have long terms to serve.

THE New York Supreme Court has decided that railroads are not relieved of their responsibilities as common carriers by a strike on the part of its operatives. The case grew out of a derangement of business by the freight handlers' strike in that State sometime last year.

MASSACHUSETTS is in a bad way, according to Gov. Butler's message. He says: "It has an incompetent, extravagant, ill-balanced government. Its people cannot vote; its children are not taught; its paupers are not fed; its health is not guarded by the public officials." The trouble with the old State is, that she has attended too much to other people's business.

Judge Hoadley, the temporary chairman of the last Democratic Conservative Convention and the next probable candidate of the democracy for Governor of Ohio, is reported to have said that he has little faith in the civil service bill which has just become a law. It will not keep Republicans in nor keep Democrats out of the offices, he thinks. In his own words: "A track can be laid around any obstruction the bill contains." Nevertheless, it should have a fair trial and stand or fall on its own merits.

## Capt. Fant Declines.

Capt. Jas. T. Fant, who for two terms has ably and conscientiously filled the office of District Attorney for the Holly Springs District, declines to become a candidate for another election.

In speaking of appointments in the South, the President is reported to have said to a Georgia friend that he had reached the conclusion that in the future he would appoint but few colored men to office, and that he should be careful, in selecting the few, to appoint only those whose character for ability and integrity was unquestioned. He was satisfied, he said, that the appointment of colored men tended to keep white men of standing out of the Republican party. That may be sufficient reason for a President, but it is not statesmanlike.

On the 24th January Senator Brown, of Georgia, voted with the protectionists to protect iron ore. Had he voted with the Democrats, iron ore would have been placed on the free list. He vindicated his vote by an ingenious argument. He is always plausible. This is not the first, nor the most memorable instance, of his going with the other side against his own. In reference to iron ore, we do not know that either a high or a low duty would have much effect upon its importation. What is most wanted is a tariff for revenue, and not for protection, on iron in its refined and manufactured state. It is not a free list that is needed, but "a tariff for revenue only."

## A Railroad Mortgaged.

MEMPHIS, Jan. 25.—The Memphis, Selma and Brunswick Railroad Company filed with the County Register to-day a first mortgage for \$6,000,000 upon all their property and franchises, to guarantee the Trust and Safe Deposit Company, of Philadelphia, for the purpose of raising funds to build and equip the road from Memphis to Holly Springs, thence on to the western line of Alabama, a distance of 175 miles, only 75 of which is graded. This road constitutes a portion of the system controlled by the Erlanger syndicate.

[On this road, the lessees of the Mississippi penitentiary have a large force. It will be completed between Holly Springs and Memphis at an early day.]

MASSACHUSETTS has had a Railroad Commissioner fourteen years. They are still building railroads in that State.

THE Mobile & Ohio Road is out of the hands of a receiver and has been turned over to the owners.

MR. J. A. HAIRE is now associated with Mr. E. T. Thompson in the publication of that excellent paper, the Aberdeen Weekly.

"THE Lost Diamond," a drama by Col. W. C. Falkner, the distinguished author, is to be performed on the stage and will no doubt be a success.

ACCORDING to the figures prepared by Mr. McPherson, Clerk of the House of Representatives, the next House will be composed of 120 Republicans, 6 Readjusters, 2 Greenback-labor, 5 Independents and 192 Democrats.

THE House Committee on Agriculture have agreed to report the bill for the creation of an Agricultural Commission. It will be reported with an amendment enlarging the scope of the investigation of the Commission so as to include not only agricultural products, but everything pertaining to agriculture.

WHOEVER undertakes hereafter to repeat the trite saying that republics are ungrateful, should have sent to him a copy of the Pension Appropriation bill, which provides for paying eighty-seven million dollars in one year to disabled soldiers of the Union.

Yes, but what about the neglect to pension the soldiers who conquered peace from Mexico and security for the future in the shape of territory immense in its extent and its wealth?

LAST year 738,167 acres of Government land were sold in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Louisiana and Mississippi—the only Southern States where there is Government land. The amount received was \$1,200,000. Of the land sold 370,032.26 acres are in Louisiana. The sales in that State exceeded by 10,000 acres the sales in Minnesota. In Mississippi 219,889.81 acres were sold. These sales indicate an immigration boom in the two States of no ordinary dimensions.

We regret to say, not so much an "immigration boom" as to Mississippi. The largest portion of lands in this State were purchased by capitalists in the expectation that they would realize large profits when the "immigration boom" sets in.

COURIER JOURNAL: The people of the United States paid \$3,500,000 in taxes to the manufacturers of common window glass last year, and still the manufacturers are asking for more.

## Death of Capt. E. P. Jones.

Vicksburg Commercial, 25th. After a long illness, Capt. E. P. Jones, died yesterday. The deceased gentleman was an Alabamian by nativity. He was born in the little town of Greensborough, Oct. 29th, 1842. During the civil war, Capt. Jones was one of the most gallant defenders of the fallen Confederacy. In 1866 he came to Vicksburg and assumed charge of the freight department of the V. & M. railroad, the onerous and exacting duties of which he continued to discharge with marked faithfulness and ability up to the moment of his final illness. In 1875 Mr. Jones married Miss Lallah Brooke, daughter of Hon. Walker Brooke, United States Senator from Mississippi in 1851 and member of the Confederate Senate from this State during the war.

## The East Mississippi Insane Asylum.

AN ERRONEOUS STATEMENT CORRECTED.

The following from the Meridian Observer corrects the statement that the fifty thousand dollars appropriated by the Legislature for building the new insane asylum, had been expended in laying the foundations, and that it would not be in condition to receive patients until an additional large sum is expended in its construction, contrary to the intent of the Legislature. The comments of the press were based upon the statement of another contemporary at Meridian. Having published it, we are glad to reproduce the correction.

Says the Observer:

The paragraph and similar articles that we have seen, does great injustice to the Commissioners for the erection of the insane asylum here. The act of the Legislature required that a building of sufficient capacity for the care and maintenance of two hundred and fifty patients, to be furnished with necessary boiler power and engine, hot and cold water, gas pipes and appurtenances suitable for the proper equipment of an institution for the insane, should be built for \$50,000. The Commissioners have done the best possible under the circumstances. They have made a contract for the erection of an asylum for the \$50,000 appropriated, which will have capacity for the requisite number of patients, and will be ready for use during the summer, though there will be painting and extra work necessary to finish it in the style in which such a building should be completed. It is not true that the money has all been expended on the foundation and basement of the main building, nor that work has been discontinued. The whole amount expended up to this time is but a little over \$8,000, and whenever the weather is suitable the work is pushed as rapidly as possible. For the 1st month or six weeks the rains and cold weather have greatly impeded the work, but it is still going on, and has at no time been suspended. The conduct of the Commissioners will bear the closest investigation. We believe they have acted for the best interests of the State. They are all tax payers and could have no incentive to do otherwise. We feel assured that the work will be well done, and that the asylum when completed will answer all the requirements of the act of the Legislature and be the cheapest building of the kind ever erected in the South.

In addition to the foregoing, we will copy the Sun's explanation of its statement, which lead to the misapprehension:

In the first place, the Sun merely gave it as its opinion, only for what that opinion was worth, which we so stated at the time, that the amount of the appropriation was not sufficient to complete the building on the plan begun. In mentioning this matter in this light we had in our mind the putting in condition the building to accommodate the overflow of insane persons in the State, outside the asylum at Jackson, and the necessary improvements to make it habitable. These prerequisites we classed as "the unfinished condition" in which we thought the building would be left after the present appropriation should have been expended. The bill, we think, authorized the building of an asylum only, for which a certain amount was set apart. This could be expended on the building in strict conformity to law and yet the institution be far from a condition for occupancy. We have never had any conversation with either commissioners or contractors regarding the branch asylum, and are therefore unable to speak advisedly of the terms of contract or of the amount of money already expended on the work, but knowing the commissioners to be gentlemen of integrity and intelligence we presume they confined themselves to the law governing their action in the premises. We have no knowledge of their having done otherwise, and are not disposed to make such an unwarranted charge.

## WASHINGTON.

THE MANNING-BUCHANAN CONTEST.

Mr. Calkins, Chairman, presented a report signed by eight members, being a majority of the committee, favorable to Mr. Manning, and gave notice that if the other report should be called up, he would make a point of order that it was not a report of the committee. Representative Manning holds his seat, and will continue to hold it up to the 4th of March.—Telegram 30th.

## BISHOP THOMPSON.

The majority of the bishops of the Protestant Episcopal Church have consented to the consecration of Rev. Hugh Miller Thompson, D. D., as assistant bishop of Mississippi.

## A WASHINGTON CASE.

Special to the Times-Democrat.]

WASHINGTON, Jan. 25.—The Supreme Court to-day sustained the State law of Alabama against miscegenation. The case was that of Alabama vs. Toney Pace, a colored man. He was convicted under the State law of living in sexual relations with a white woman. The court held that the State law prohibiting miscegenation was not in conflict with the fourteenth constitutional amendment.

## Sensible.

Special to the Times-Democrat.]

WASHINGTON, Jan. 27.—Mr. J. H. Acklen has sent a formal letter to Mr. Kellogg, informing him that he has withdrawn his notice of contest, and that he does not propose to make a contest for the seat from the Third Louisiana District.

## The Tupelo Journal.

Aberdeen Weekly.]

The Southern Reveille speaks simple truth when it calls the Tupelo Journal "an able and fearless paper." Miller is one among the best men in the State, not only editorially, but in every way.

## Precept Versus Practice.

Yazoo Sentinel.] The postmaster at Madison has been ousted because he was Maj. Barksdale for Congress in 1860, to Jim Hill, and that too in the Civil Service Reform!

## Give It a Chance.

Savannah News.] The "infant" industry that bawl the pig-iron interest in more paps, is entitled to the same chance that can be procured.

## Two Societies That Are Not.

St. Louis Post-Dispatch.] The Society for the Suppression of Manners should be accompanied by Society to Keep Silly Girls from nading.

## Railroad Commissioners.

Exchange.]

Railroad commissions are in vogue with the people everywhere. The States have them and the other, them, or, at least, will never be without them. The main question should such commission be advisory or advisory. The Georgia commission is very generally regarded as a model of the mandatory class. Massachusetts commission of the rv. Of course there are commissions all degrees of power.

## A Poor Rule that Don't Work.

Macon Beacon.]

The reported cause of the removal of the postmaster at Madison Station, he advocated Barksdale's work is a poor rule that won't work. —Democratic stock is going to be a premium, and we trust that postmasters, in the district, who advocate the election of Barksdale, be promptly removed when the patronage is in Democratic hands.

## Capital Punishment.

Philadelphia American.]

Statistics show that the capital punishment in murder works as badly in Maine as in Maine. In 1870, the convicts undergoing imprisonment for murder were 100 per cent. of the whole number; in 1882, 25 per cent.; in 1882, 25 per cent. forty men are now in prison on sentence, and the number is going on growing. With every increase of the punishment, the moral effect of the punishment is diminished—for crime, like every sort of misery, likes company and keeps it in countenance.

## Heed the Will of the People.

From Governor Cornell's (New York) Address.]

The people of the State are its rulers. Those whom they elect form official trusts, to make laws, to execute them, and to administer the views, the custodians of their will, and the instruments of their will. He is wise, therefore, who representative capacity recognizes the influence or expression of the will. In these ceremonial forms is presented a fitting illustration of the maxim that the just powers of government are derived from the consent of the governed. All successful government from enlightened public sentiment, and whatever motive or motive tend the choice of official servants will only succeed which has for its end and ultimate object the maintenance and promotion of good and honest government.

## Judge Wharton.

Clinton Argus.]

Judge Wharton, of this (9th) district, is making a fine start as a judicial officer, and seems to meet the approval of the law abiding citizens of all the counties where he has presided. We have heard his Grand Jury, at Jackson, particularly complimented for its comprehensiveness and energy. If the Judge's efforts are only by the other officers of the court will soon appear a marked improvement throughout the district as regards the quality of every character.

## Some of the Secrets of the

of the Civil Service Bill.

New York Sun.]

The story of the management of civil service reform project is amusing. The professional civil reformers treated poor Pendleton harshly at the close of the bill. After using him as a stalking horse at the last sessions to further their scheme, Hawley stepped in at the last hour and carried off whatever credit attached to this sham. Dorman B. Eaton, a regular "reformer" who does the old stand, and who expects to become a law, got up the original bill. They hunted about for the man able man to introduce it.

The Senate changed the bill, and at the end Hawley extricated himself, leaving him for ridicule on the Republican side without following among the Democrats who openly and scornfully repudiated him. Poor Pendleton is on the verge of repentance for having been this Republican trap, but it will be too late for him to get anything else to which his ambition aspires.

The best men of both parties to the bill should pass, that the bill will not appoint one of the reformers to the places which they sought to create for themselves. Ringsters have lobbied more power than these canting demagogues to carry through a scheme to provide them with life tenures in the Treasury. They have affected years past hunting, while they have made office seeking a business.